**Recruitment to Defence Services on caste basis**

764. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been several demands from some quarters that the recruitment to Defence Services should be done on the basis of caste with SC, ST and Other Backward Classes;

(b) whether the demand has also been made for raising an entire regiment based exclusively on castes, religion or State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recruitment in the Armed Forces is based on merit and is open to every citizen of the Country including Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Class candidates without any discrimination on the basis of their caste, creed, religion or region. The policy of the Government is also not to raise any new Regiment based on any particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indian have representation.

**Modernisation of Armed Forces**

765. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much budget allocations were earmarked for modernization of Armed Forces during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004;

(b) how much amount was actually spent out of these allocations;

(c) what is the status of current Modernisation Plan for the year 2005; and

(d) whether our Armed Forces have developed matching strategic plans to effectively tackle any eventuality in view of belligerent and hostile environments around us?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Budgetary allocations and expenditure there against for Capital Acquisitions in respect of Armed Forces for the last 3 years is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

| year | BE | RE | Actuals |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-2003 | 18881.09 | 12808.66 | 12938.64 |
| 2003-2004 | 18066.71 | 14568.65 | 14583.76 |
| 2004-2005 | 26840.05 | 27255.94 | 27208.57 |

(c) Defence Services prepare Long Perspective Plan in tandem with the five year's Defence Plan, from which the Annual Acquisition Plan for the Services is carved out. During the current financial year, *i.e.* 2005-2006 an amount of Rs. 26991.51 crores has been allocated for Capital Acquisition. These plans form the basis of the budgetary projection. The progress of Defence expenditure and the status of ongoing/new schemes is kept under constant review.

(d) The modernization of Armed Forces is an on-going process and acquisition plans are prepared keeping in view the national security threat preceptions. Our Forces are operationally prepared and worthy of facing any Challenges.

**Commercial autonomy to PSEs and ordanance units under MoD**

766. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering giving more commercial autonomy to the PSEs and ordanance units under the Ministry;

(b) whether Government has received the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee on the issue;

(c) what are the major recommendations of the Kelkar Committee;

(d) whether the Kelkar Committee has also made recommendations regarding the management of PSEs;

(e) whether Government has finalized its views on those recommendations;

(f) if so, the details of government's view on the Kelkar Committee's recommendations; and

(g) how long will it take for Government to finalise the plan of action to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE):(a) to (g) The Kelkar Committee in Part II of its Report submitted to the Government on 10th November 2005 has